

**REMARKS**

Claims 1–20 are pending in the present application.

Claims 6–7, 17 and 20 have been canceled.

Claims 1–6, 9–16 and 18–19 were rejected in the Office Action. However, claims 7, 8 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, claim 1 was amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 6–7, and claim 13 was amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 17.

Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 97-C-108C1 (STMI01-97108)  
U.S. SERIAL NO. 09/160,824  
PATENT

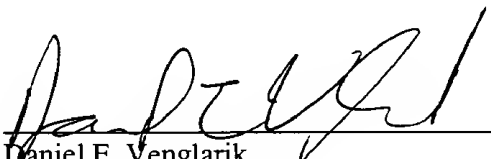
If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *dvenglarik@davismunck.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIS MUNCK, P.C.

Date: 4-12-04

  
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